

MASTER TRACK: Theory and History of Psychology

Intro for Sept 2024

Annette Mülberger
Jeremy Burman
 Maarten Derksen
 Ole Gmelin
 Stephan Schleim

Theory and History of Psychology

Our aim is to understand why psychology became the way it is, how it has been understood, how it negotiates its boundaries with other allied sciences, and how it could be improved.

We focus on the social, methodological, philosophical, and conceptual issues that underlie contemporary psychology.

We will introduce you to a broader range of concepts, literature, and research methods to help you to identify and ask the most exciting and urgent questions, and also discover new ways to consider them by looking at history, philosophy, public understanding, and sociology of science.

In short: this is a programme for those who want to explore beyond statistical analyses of quantitative data and learn about the various historical, cultural, and qualitative alternatives to the standard set of approaches in contemporary scientific psychology. **(Is that you?)**

Introduction

- › What's your name?
- › Where are you from? (Your country and your academic background)
- › What other languages do you speak? (A valuable resource!)
- › Is there anything in particular that you are hoping to learn about this master track today?
- › Do you have any specific interests that you want to pursue?
- › Do you have some thoughts about your electives?
- › Do you know who you want your supervisor to be?

About the THP master track

The only English-taught master in Europe dedicated to the theory and history of psychology

Supported by a team of specialists in the field

Education focused on active learning in seminars, (online) discussions, via peer review, and one-on-one supervision

Strong emphasis on communication skills: writing and presenting as ways to discipline thinking

Interested in thinking *beyond* disciplinary norms:

- . What is behind all the theories and 'established facts' you have learned?
- . Why is the field the way it is? (Is it natural? Merely convenient? The result of popularization?)
- . Is it the way it should be? How could it be improved?



THP in more detail

Two core courses, 10 EC total

- Conceptual Issues in Psychology
- Boundaries of Psychology

Two skills/methods courses, 10 EC total

- Writing Skills
- Qualitative Research Methods

Two elective courses, 10 EC total

- Two of your choice, in consultation (drawing from our recommendations)

Internship (10 EC)—e.g., with the Wikimedia Foundation

Master's thesis (20 EC)—a short journal article in THP style

Schedule for Psychology Master students (start September 2023)

Name: Master track: THP: Theory & History of Psychology

Student nr.: Email address (RUG):
 Note: Check your university email address regularly: this address is being used for all electronic communications with students!

	Academic year 2023-2024			
	semester I		semester II	
	Block 1A	Block 1B	Block 2A	Block 2B
Foundation courses (2 x 5 EC)	PSMRB: Conceptual Issues in Psychology		PSMPK: Boundaries of Psychology	
Skills course (1 x 5 EC)	PSMRV: Writing Skills			
Methods course (1 x 5 EC)		GMREMA02: Qualitative Research Methods		
Electives (2 x 5 EC)	[many choices]	[many choices]	[few choices]	[very few choices]
Master thesis/Master Internship (20+10 EC)	PSEMRT-20: Master thesis (all year) Thesis proposal	Thesis reading	Thesis draft	PSEMRI-10: Master internship Thesis revision

- The THP master is a one-year programme that comprises 60 EC, and the Heymans Institute assumes a schedule of 15 ec per block (i.e. 420 hours per block).
- Electives are not restricted to BSS. THP students routinely follow courses from Philosophy or Arts, but this needs permission and confirmation from the Examinations Committee. If you are interested in the "Reflecting on Science and Integrity" course from the BSS ReMa, speak with the THP master coordinator.
- Internships can be taken at any time if you have made special arrangements. This schedule is a suggestion, using the default THP placement with Wikimedia. (If you make your own arrangements, the required 280 hours could be spread out across several blocks.)
- Submit this form to the coordinator of your master track after the starting event.

In agreement with the programme coordinator, _____ (signature) _____ (coordinator signature) _____ (date)

	Academic year 2023-2024			
	semester I		semester II	
	Block 1A	Block 1B	Block 2A	Block 2B
Foundation courses (2 x 5 EC)	PSMRB: Conceptual Issues in Psychology		PSMPK: Boundaries of Psychology	
Skills course (1 x 5 EC)	PSMRV: Writing Skills			
Methods course (1 x 5 EC)		GMREMA02: Qualitative Research Methods		
Electives (2 x 5 EC)	[many choices]	[many choices]	[few choices]	[very few choices]
Master thesis/Master Internship (20+10 EC)	PSEMRT-20: Master thesis (all year) Thesis proposal	Thesis reading	Thesis draft	PSEMRI-10: Master internship Thesis revision

	Academic year 2023-2024			
	semester I		semester II	
	Block 1A	Block 1B	Block 2A	Block 2B
Foundation courses (2 x 5 EC)	PSMRB: Conceptual Issues in Psychology 20 hours/week		PSMPK: Boundaries of Psychology 20 hours/week	
Skills course (1 x 5 EC)	PSMRV: Writing Skills 10 hours/week 10 hours/week			
Methods course (1 x 5 EC)		GMREMA02: Qualitative Research Methods 20 hours/week		
Electives (2 x 5 EC)	[many choices]	[many choices]	[few choices]	[very few choices]
Master thesis/Master Internship (20+10 EC)	PSEMRT-20: Master thesis (all year) Thesis proposal	Thesis reading	Thesis draft	PSEMRI-10: Master internship Thesis revision

**Your thesis is expected to take 560 hours total
All internships are expected to take 280 hours total**

	Academic year 2023-2024			
	semester I		semester II	
	Block 1A	Block 1B	Block 2A	Block 2B
Foundation courses (2 x 5 EC)	PSMRB: Conceptual Issues in Psychology		PSMPK: Boundaries of Psychology	
Skills course (1 x 5 EC)	PSMRV: Writing Skills			
Methods course (1 x 5 EC)		GMREMA02: Qualitative Research Methods		
Electives (2 x 5 EC)	[many choices] Elective 1?	[many choices] Elective 2?	[few choices]	[very few choices]
Master thesis/Master Internship (20+10 EC)	PSEMRT-20: Master thesis (all year) Thesis proposal	Thesis reading	Thesis draft	PSEMRI-10: Master internship Thesis revision

If you are chatting with staff about a possible thesis topic, then you are already working on your proposal

Something new we're working on: "tracks"

"Neuro-law" (with Schlein)

- › RGASR90306 Law and Psychiatry (1a) - Dutch only, 6 ECTS
- › F1184FR Philosophy of Neuroscience (1b)

Epistemology

- › F1214SE: Social Epistemology of Science (2b)
- › GMREMA06: Reflecting on Science and Integrity (1a in Year 2)—special permission needed

Education policy

- › PAMAY204: DMCP: using Research to improve Policy and Practice (1b)
- › PAYMENT107: Participation and Policy (2a)

Also: a word about the "PSH" dual master



Core THP Courses

Conceptual Issues in Psychology

- Introduction to THP at RUG and elsewhere
- Texts on psychology as science vs. profession, history of psychology as history of science and the role of epistemology, scientific paradigms, scientific language, categories and classification, impact of psychological knowledge in society
- Reading, assignments, discussion, and final essay

Boundaries of Psychology

- Classic and important recent texts from history of science, STS, sociology of science, psychology, neuroscience, etc., to engage with an ever-changing series of exciting topics that are intended to help students *feel* what boundaries are
- Further develops a simplifying technique from Writing Skills for the targeted reading of complex and interdisciplinary texts (to help you “work smarter”)
- Presentations, discussion, and a final essay based on the presentation



Skills and Methods Courses

Writing Skills

- Learn why APA Style asks what it does, how to peer review, using & manipulating metrics
- Tricks regarding structure, rhetoric, voice, complexity—so you can make good choices
- Regular reading and emulation of “Best Science Writing” series
- Practice expressing your ideas clearly while taking the audience's needs into account
- Goal: make it easier to think, develop, explain, and publish your own original thoughts

Qualitative Research Methods

- Foundations and ethics
- Digital methods
- Observations and ethnography
- Interviews and narrative research
- Data analysis



Electives

Two of your choice

Cultural Psychology, Ethics in Education, Social Epistemology, Philosophy of Neuroscience, etc (I'll share a list when the time comes to brainstorm your options)

Courses from the psychology master are automatically approved

Courses from the psychology ReMa need special permission, but I've arranged this for some courses (e.g., Reflecting on Science and Research Integrity)

With permission, our students have also taken courses from Arts and Philosophy

Note that this needs permission from the teacher, the Faculty, and our Examinations Cmte



Master's thesis

Independent research project under supervision of a member of THP staff

- Aug/Jan discuss and choose electives, meet supervisors
- Sep/Oct/Feb/March choose supervisor and narrow in on thesis topic
- Oct/Nov/March/April develop research proposal with your supervisor
- Dec/Jan/May/June present your ideas at the THP forum & discuss
- March/April/Aug/Sept share a full draft with your supervisor for feedback
- June/July/Nov/Dec **final thesis should be submitted for grading**

Be certain that your supervisor is not planning to be at a conference, or on holiday, in the period right after your intended submission date



A word about the internship

- Meant as a professionalizing experience outside the university
- Ideally with a supervisor who is familiar with academic concerns, to help you bridge between your studies and your career
- **You are only expected to find an internship position by yourself if you choose not to follow one of the placements we have already set up...**
 - THP default is Wikimedia Foundation with Dr Alice White (PhD in History from Kent), with whom I will arrange a meeting so you can ask questions
- If you choose to use your own network to find a placement (in e.g., science communication, journal editing, policy advising, etc.), please contact the THP internship coordinator asap: [Jeremy Burman](#)



After your master

We are presently doing a systematic study of recent alumni, and discovering that **many** graduates have gone on to do PhDs in several different disciplines

Other alumni, who aren't academics or researchers, work in fields such as:

- Psychologist/Coach
- Consulting (e.g., at McKinsey)
- Government (policy advisor)
- NGOs (policy advisor, science communicator)
- Journalism (science journalist) and Publishing (editor)
- Teaching (history or social sciences teacher)

Some students also choose to do the THP master in parallel with another, such as "Philosophy, Science, & Humanities"

Background about the staff, for reference

Some basic information about the interests of potential supervisors

You are welcome to email any of us with questions

You are also strongly urged to join our colloquium series: the THP Forum
(To be added to the mailing list, email m.derksen@rug.nl)

Not everyone will be able join us, but you can have the slides as a reference

Prof. Dr. Annette Mülberger

Former president of the European Society for the History of the Human Sciences (x2)

Histories of the human mind and its discipline (19th and 20th century)

- Early experimental and applied psychology
- Criminology and juridical psychology
- Practices of psychological testing and measurement
- Crisis debates in psychology
- Boundaries of science and the history of spiritualism

Mülberger, A. (2014). The need for contextual approaches to the history of mental testing. *History of Psychology*, 17(3), 177-186.

Mülberger, A. (2022). Early experimental psychology: How did Replication work before P-hacking? *Review of General Psychology*, 26(2), 131-145.

Dr. Jeremy Burman

Elected Fellow of the American Psychological Association (History 26 & Developmental 7)
President-Elect of the APA Division for History

Histories of developmental psychology & constructive epistemology (20th century history)

- Jean Piaget and the “Geneva Circle” (incl. Beth, Apostel, Ladrière, etc.)
- Historical appeals to the “new biology” to inform theory (esp. Waddington’s epigenetics)
- Cold War Americanization of European thought (e.g., Kuhn, Quine’s naturalized epistemology)

Popularization, translation, and meaning-change (contemporary theory)

- How “meaning” develops and moves, and how that movement can be formally described
- What digital methods can’t do, and yet how they can still aid topic selection

Burman, J. T. (2022). Meaning-change through the mistaken mirror: On the indeterminacy of “Wundt” and “Piaget” in translation. *Review of General Psychology*, 26(1), 22-48.

Dr. Maarten Derksen

Science & Technology Studies

- Social technology and “human engineering” (award winning book in 2017 from Cambridge University Press)

History of Social Science (20th century and contemporary)

- The discussion of replication in contemporary psychology and the crisis of confidence
- Scientific rhetoric: tact and the role, in science, of “conversations”

Also a strong advocate for the use of Qualitative Methods in Psychology

Derksen, M. & Field, S. (2022). The tone debate: Knowledge, self, and social order. *Review of General Psychology*, 26(2), 172-183.

Derksen, M. & Morawski, J. (2022). Kinds of replication: Examining the meanings of “conceptual replication” and “direct replication.” *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 17(5), 1490-1505.

Dr. Ole Gmelin

Director of the new LGBTQ+ centre of expertise at BSS
Chair of Qualitative Research Methods Group

Qualitative and Mixed Methods and their use in the Social Sciences
Development of research identities and the ways identities influence ontological and epistemological choices

Gmelin, J-O. H. & Kunnen, E. S. (2021). Iterative micro-identity content analysis: Studying identity development within and across real-time interactions. *Identity*, 21(4), 324-340.

Gmelin, J-O. H. et al. (2022). Increased risks for mental disorders among LGB individuals: Cross-national evidence from the World Mental Health surveys. *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*, 57, 2319-2332.

Dr. Stephan Schleim

Research on the interaction between science and society, esp. between psychology, neuroscience, psychiatry, and the law (neuroenhancement, neurolaw)

Also very active in public engagement (esp. in German newspapers, radio, TV)

Schleim, S. (2012). Brains in context in the neurolaw debate: The examples of free will and "dangerous" brains. *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, 35(2), 104-111.

Schleim, S. & Quednow, B. B. (2018). How realistic are the scientific assumptions of the neuroenhancement debate? Assessing the pharmacological optimism and neuroenhancement prevalence hypotheses. *Frontiers in Pharmacology*, 9(3), 1-7.



A community of PhD students you may encounter

Welmoed Ekster: “Culture as cognition theory” (Merlin Donald/Barend van Heusden)

Anouk de Kleijn: “The decisive book at the right moment: personal and motivating literature education”

Camilo Garzón: Spiritualism, psychical research, and science in Latin America (1870-1930)

Jochem Noordberger: History and theory of psychotherapy, while working as a GGZ-registered clinical psych

Génesis Nuñez: Intelligence at school (Spain, 1900-1936)

Haris Psaros: “Science, technology, and human nature: Exploring their entanglement through the prism of psychology”

Violeta Ruiz: “‘La gran neurosis’: Neurasthenia and the crisis of modern selfhood in Spain, c.1890-1923”

Gonzalo Salas: “Psychological itineraries: Women in education in Chile (1854-1928)”

Sara Serrano: The concept and practices of expertise in the Spanish criminal procedure (1930-1960)

Rinske Vermeij: Archival investigations of Heymans’ special psychology and its uses

Recently finished

Frederik Boven: History of autism, esp. Frankl (1897-1975), Asperger (1906-1980) and Kanner (1894-1981)



Q & A

Bachelor courses for those considering THP

- › 1-2b. History of Psych—in both Dutch & English (w/ Derksen & Mülberger)
- › 2-2b. Theory of science—in both Dutch & English (w/ Derksen & Schleim)
- › 3-1a. Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods (w/ Gmelin)
- › 3-1a. Controversies in Psychology (w/ Mülberger)
- › 3-1b. Philosophy of Psychology (w/ Schleim)
- › 3-2b. Brain, Consciousness and Society (w/ Schleim)

Also, at UCG

- › 3-2a. Philosophical Foundations of Psychology (w/ Gmelin)

Email addresses

Annette Mülberger (a.c.mulberger@rug.nl)

Jeremy Burman (j.t.burman@rug.nl)

Maarten Derksen (m.derksen@rug.nl)

Ole Gmelin (j.h.gmelin@rug.nl)

Stephan Schleim (s.schleim@rug.nl)